New policy for airport infrastructure

3712. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHR1 DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring a new policy for easy development of airport infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be cleared keeping in view the ensuing Commonwealth Games, 2010 in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government has approved a new Policy to streamline the process for setting up of new airports. Its salient features are:

(i) Terms and conditions of all the concerned agencies like DGCA, Security, Defence etc. would be prescribed up-front.

(ii) DGCA can clear a proposal if it meets a11 the prescribed terms and conditions.

(iii) If the proposal is to set up a new airport within an aerial distance of 150 kms from an existing airport, it would be considered by a Steering Committee of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on whose advise, the Ministry can clear it.

(iv) In case the proposal seeks any exemption from any of the prescribed conditions, it would require approval of the Union Cabinet.

(v) All reserved activities to be performed at the airport by central agencies like immigration, customs etc. would be on cost recovery basis.

Air services for North-East region

3713. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to plan exclusive airlines for North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to open new airfields in this region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air services in North-East Region are operated under a Memorandum of Understanding between North East Council and Alliance Air and as per Route Dispersal Guidelines laid down by the Government. However, to increase the air connectivity between smaller cities, Government has now introduced the concept of scheduled regional airlines who will primarily operate in a designated region. Government has granted initial No Objection Certificate to ZAV Air to operate scheduled regional air services within Eastern and North-Eastern Region.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India proposes to take up Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Pekyong in Sikkim and Chiethu in Nagaland Greenfield Airports in North-East.